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MAILED

AUG 20 2010

In re Application of	:	OFFICE OF PETITIONS
Herz, et al.	:	
Application No. 09/690,046	:	DECISION
Filed/Deposited: 16 October, 2000	:	
Attorney Docket No. P0813.70015US01	:	

This action vacates the 10 September, 2007, Decision on Petition, and issues the following revised decision on the petition filed on 8 March, 2007, considered as a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.181 (no fee) requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181 is DISMISSED.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.181."

This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. §704.

As to the Request to Withdraw
the Holding of Abandonment

Petitioner is directed to the Commentary at MPEP §711.03(c)(I) for guidance as to the proper showing requirements for relief under 37 C.F.R. §1.181.

Petitioner appears not to comply with the guidance in the Commentary at MPEP §711.03(c)(I)—as discussed below, Petitioner has failed to satisfy the showing requirements set forth there. Petitioner may find it beneficial to review that material and move step-wise through that guidance in the effort to satisfy the showing requirements (statements and supporting documentation).

Petitioner failed to make the showing required.

BACKGROUND

The record reflects as follows:

Following the Examiner's second non-final rejection on 16 February, 2005, Petitioner filed on 19 August, 2005, a Notice of Appeal (with fee) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §41.31(a).

Petitioner's further reply in the form of an Appeal Brief was due absent extension of time on or before 19 October, 2005.

However, Petitioner failed to reply timely and properly, and the application went abandoned by operation of law after midnight 19 October, 2005;

The Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment on 22 January, 2007;

On 8 March, 2007, Petitioner filed a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181 and averred, *inter alia*, a 21 February, 2006, timely reply in the form of an amendment over an 18 February, 2006, certificate of mailing, with a request and fee for extension of time to make the reply timely.

The record reflects Petitioner's filing of an amendment, however, the proper reply to Petitioner's Notice Appeal was an Appeal Brief (with fee), which Petitioner did not file.

Thus, Petitioner's suggestion that the Examiner misinterpreted the amendment as one after-final and not of right is in fact a misinterpretation/misappreciation of the reply requirement herein,

Accordingly, Petitioner failed to satisfy the properly reply requirement and here failed to satisfy the showing requirement, as discussed below. Petitioner is directed to the appropriate guidance (MPEP §711.03(c)(I)). To prevail herein on a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181 Petitioner **must** comply with that guidance.

With regard to a request to withdraw the holding of abandonment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181, the guidance in the Commentary at MPEP §711.03(c)(I) provides in pertinent part as to timely reply:

[The regulations at] 37 C.F.R. §1.10(c) through §1.10(e) and §1.10(g) set forth procedures for petitioning the Director of the USPTO to accord a filing date to correspondence as of the date of deposit of the correspondence as "Express Mail." A petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment relying upon a timely reply placed in "Express Mail" must include an appropriate petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.10(c), (d), (e), or (g) (see MPEP §513). When a paper is shown to have been mailed to the Office using the "Express Mail" procedures, the paper must be entered in PALM with the "Express Mail" date.

Similarly, applicants may establish that a reply was filed with a postcard receipt that properly identifies the reply and provides *prima facie* evidence that the reply was timely filed. See MPEP §503. For example, if the application has been held abandoned for failure to file a reply to a first Office action, and applicant has a postcard receipt showing that an amendment was timely filed in response to the Office action, then the holding of abandonment should be withdrawn upon the filing of a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment. When the reply is shown to have been timely filed based on a postcard receipt, the reply must be entered into PALM using the date of receipt of the reply as shown on the post card receipt.

Where a certificate of mailing under 37 C.F.R. §1.8, but not a postcard receipt, is relied upon in a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment, see 37 C.F.R. 1.8(b) and MPEP §512. As stated in 37 C.F.R. §1.8(b)(3) the statement that attests to the previous timely mailing or transmission of the correspondence must be on a personal knowledge basis, or to the satisfaction of the Director of the USPTO. If the statement attesting to the previous timely mailing is not made by the person who signed the Certificate of Mailing (i.e., there is no personal knowledge basis), then the statement attesting to the previous timely mailing should include evidence that supports the conclusion that the correspondence was actually mailed (e.g., copies of a mailing log establishing that correspondence was mailed for that application). When the correspondence is shown to have been timely filed based on a certificate of mailing, the correspondence is entered into PALM with the actual date of receipt (i.e., the date that the duplicate copy of the papers was filed with the statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.8).

37 C.F.R. §1.8(b) also permits applicant to notify the Office of a previous mailing or transmission of correspondence and submit a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.8(b)(3) accompanied by a duplicate copy of the correspondence when a reasonable amount of time (e.g., more than one month) has elapsed from the time of mailing or transmitting of the correspondence. Applicant does not have to wait until the application becomes abandoned before notifying the Office of the previous mailing or transmission of the correspondence. Applicant should check the private Patent Application Information

Retrieval (PAIR) system for the status of the correspondence before notifying the Office.
See MPEP §512.¹

In the instant matter, Petition appears unable to comply with and/or otherwise satisfy these requirements. Should Petitioner wish to revive the application: Petitioner must properly file a petition to the Commissioner requesting revival of an application abandoned due to unintentional delay under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b). (See: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/0700_711_03_c.htm#sect711.03c)

Out of an abundance of caution, Petitioners always are reminded that the filing of a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.181 does not toll any periods that may be running any action by the Office and a petition seeking relief under the regulation must be filed within two (2) months of the act complained of (*see*: 37 C.F.R. §1.181(f)), and those registered to practice and all others who make representations before the Office are reminded to inquire into the underlying facts of representations made to the Office and support averments with the appropriate documentation—since all owe to the Office the continuing duty to disclose.²

NOTE: The record reflects that the only transaction filed by Petitioner since the 8 March, 2007, petition was a 17 March, 2009, Status Inquiry.

As noted below, should Petitioner elect to associate this application with a Customer Number—which Office records suggest Petitioner thus far has failed to do—Petitioner may then review the status of the application online at any time.

The availability of applications and application papers online to applicants/practitioners who diligently associate their Customer Number with the respective application(s) now provides an applicant/practitioner on-demand information as to events/transactions in an application.

STATUTES, REGULATIONS

Congress has authorized the Commissioner to "revive an application if the delay is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been "unavoidable." 35 U.S.C. §133 (1994).

¹ See: MPEP §711.03(c) (I)(B).

² See supplement of 17 June, 1999. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on Petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting a statement made by Petitioner. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178, 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109)(applicant obligated under 37 C.F.R. §10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing statements to the Patent and Trademark Office).

Allegations as to the Request to
Withdraw the Holding of Abandonment

The guidance in the Commentary at MPEP §711.03(c)(I) specifies the showing required and how it is to be made and supported.

Petitioner appears not to have made the showing required.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.181 is dismissed.

ALTERNATIVE VENUE

Should Petitioner wish to revive the application, Petitioner must properly file a petition to the Commissioner requesting revival of an application abandoned due to unintentional delay under 37 C.F.R. §1.137(b). (See: http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/documents/0700_711_03_c.htm#sect711.03c).

A petition to revive on the grounds of unintentional delay must be filed promptly and such petition must be accompanied by the reply, the petition fee, a terminal disclaimer and fee where appropriate and a statement that “the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition was unintentional.” (The statement is in the form available online.)

Petitioner’s failure to file timely such a petition may be considered *indicia* delay other than that which is unintentional.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By Mail: Mail Stop PETITION
 Commissioner for Patents
 P. O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By hand: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Petitions
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries regarding this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214—it is noted, however, that all practice before the Office is in writing (see: 37 C.F.R. §1.2³) and the proper authority for action on any matter in this regard are the statutes (35 U.S.C.), regulations (37 C.F.R.) and the commentary on policy (MPEP). Therefore, no telephone discussion may be controlling or considered authority for Petitioner's action(s).

/John J. Gillon, Jr./
John J. Gillon, Jr.
Senior Attorney
Office of Petitions

³ The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.2 provide:

§1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent and Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.